

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LUSAKA 03405 210724Z
ACTION AF-08

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: BPRO, ZA
SUBJ: REQUEST FOR CHECK ON AMERICAN MOVIE GROUP IN ZAMBIA

1. DOMINIC MULAISHO, CHAIRMAN OF INDECO AND A ZAMBIAN OF UNUSUAL TALENT AND ABILITY HAS WRITTEN A NOVEL WHICH HE IS HOPING TO PRODUCE AS A MOVIE. HE HAS BEEN CONTACTED BY THREE AMERICANS, ONE OF WHOM IS JOHN MEAN, A SCRIPT-WRITER, NOW IN ZAMBIA. ALSO INVOLVED ARE GORDON PARKE AND DR. CURTIS POWELL, WHO PROPOSES TO PRODUCE THE FILM. THE THREE AMERICANS ARE COUNTING ON MULAISHO TO FINANCE APPROXIMATELY \$300,000 FOR SCRIPT WRITING AND OTHER PRELIMINARY PRODUCTION MATERIALS ON THE BASIS OF WHICH THEY PROMISED MULAISHO THEY CAN INVOLVE MARLON BRANDO, SIDNEY POITIER, AND PERHAPS BURT LANCASTER TO HELP FINANCE AND ACT IN THE MOVIE. TOTAL PRODUCTION COSTS THEY ESTIMATE AS APPROXIMATELY \$5 MILLION.

2. BARCLAYS BANK OF ZAMBIA AND ANGLO-AMERICAN HAVE BEEN ASKED BY MULAISHO TO HELP HIM GET TOGETHER THE \$300,000 SEED MONEY. ANGLO HAS APPROACHED THE AMBASSADOR REGARDING THE BONAFIDES OF THE THREE AMERICANS INVOLVED. IT MAY BE TEMPTED TO HELP STAKE MULAISHO IF THEY ARE REPUTABLE BUT IT IS PUZZLED AT THE ARRANGEMENT BETWEEN MEAN AND MULAISHO SINCE IT UNDERSTANDS THAT NORMALLY A WRITER WOULD SELL HIS
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RIGHTS IN RETURN FOR A ROYALTY RATHER THAN BEING ASKED TO FINANCE A SCRIPT.

3. FORMER AMBASSADOR WILKOWSKI HAS FOLLOWED THIS MATTER PERSONALLY AND BEEN IN TOUCH WITH MULAISHO REGARDING HIS INTEREST IN PRODUCING A FILM. SHE IS NOT, AS FAR AS WE KNOW, AWARE OF THE

INVOLVEMENT OF THE THREE AMERICANS.

4. REQUEST THE DEPARTMENT THROUGH WHATEVER MEANS IT HAS
AVAILABLE CHECK ON THE BONAFIDES OF THE THREE INVOLVED. IT MAY
BE THAT THIS COULD MOST EASILY BE DONE DIRECTLY BY FORMER
AMBASSADOR WILKOWSKI. ANGLO-AMERICAN HAS ASKED THAT WE RESPOND
BEFORE CHRISTMAS IF POSSIBLE. LOW

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